

IN THE CLAIMS

1-29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

obtaining content data to be broadcast by digital broadcast transmission, the content data including at least one of video content data or audio content data;

~~generating content storage control information, the content storage control information discount charge data specifying a charge for use of the content data, use including at least one of reproducing or copying the content data, wherein the charge decreases with a number of times the content data is used, at least one condition selected from the group consisting of (a) a time interval extending from the time the content data is recorded onto the recording medium; (b) a permitted number of times for copying the content data recorded on the recording medium; and (c) a permitted number of times for reproducing the content data recorded on the recording medium to output at least one of (i) video to a monitor for viewing, or (ii) audio to a speaker for listening;~~

~~inserting the content storage control information discount charge data into a control message;~~

multiplexing the content data with the control message by a first information processing apparatus to produce multiplexed data and transmitting the multiplexed data via the digital broadcast transmission;

receiving and demultiplexing the multiplexed data by a second information processing apparatus to receive the ~~content storage control information discount charge data~~ and the content data;

recording the received content data onto a recording medium by the second information processing apparatus;

using the recorded content data at the second information processing apparatus; and

~~deleting the recorded content data from the recording medium by charging for the use of the content data at the second information processing apparatus in accordance with the received discount charge data, the charge decreasing with the number of times the content data is used when the at least one condition specified by the content storage control information is met.~~

31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the ~~content storage control information discount charge data~~ specifies a charging value which is to be divided by a number n when the content data is ~~reproduced~~ used an nth time.

33. (cancelled).

34. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising encoding the content data, wherein the control message includes an entitlement control message (ECM) and the step of multiplexing the content data includes multiplexing the encoded content data with the ECM via an MPEG2 (Motion Picture Experts Group 2) transport stream.

35. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of multiplexing the content data includes multiplexing the encoded content data in a carousel manner, and inserting at least a portion of the information of the control message into an adaptation header of a DII (Download Info Indication) packet of the digital broadcast transmission.

36. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of multiplexing the content data includes multiplexing the content data in a carousel manner and inserting at least a portion of the information of the control message into an expire descriptor of a DII (Download Info Indication) packet of the digital broadcast transmission.

37-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive a digital broadcast transmission and demultiplex the received transmission into content data and discount charge data specifying a charge for use of the content data, use including at least one of reproducing or copying the content data, wherein the charge decreases with a number of times the content data is used ~~content storage control information; and~~

a data recording and reproducing device coupled to the receiver, operable to record the content data onto a recording medium and to reproduce the recorded content data, ~~wherein the content storage control information specifies at least one condition for deleting the content data from the recording medium, the condition selected from the group consisting of (a) a time interval extending from the time the content data is recorded onto the recording medium; (b) a permitted number of times for copying the content data recorded on the recording medium; and (c) a permitted number of times for reproducing the content data recorded on the recording medium to output at least one of (i) video to a monitor for viewing, or (ii) audio to a speaker for listening,~~

wherein the recording and reproducing device is operable to charge for use of the content data at the second information processing apparatus in accordance with the received discount charge data, the charge decreasing with the number of times the content data is used ~~delete the recorded content data from the recording medium when the at least one condition specified by the content storage control information is met.~~

42. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein the ~~content storage control information~~ discount charge data specifies a discount charge ~~charging value~~ to be charged for at least one of

reproducing or copying the content data an nth time by the information processing apparatus.

43-59. (cancelled)

60. (new) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the discount charge data specifies a charge which varies inversely with the number of times the content data is used.

61. (new) An information processing method, comprising:

receiving a digital broadcast transmission;

demultiplexing the received transmission into content data and discount charge data specifying a charge for use of the content data, use including at least one of reproducing or copying the content data, wherein the charge decreases with a number of times the content data is used;

recording the content data onto a recording medium; and

charging for use of the recorded content data in accordance with the received discount charge data, the charge decreasing with the number of times the content data is used.

62. (new) The method as claimed in claim 61, wherein the discount charge data specifies a charge which varies inversely with the number of times the content data is used.

63. (new) A computer-readable recording medium having instructions recorded thereon, the instructions being executable by an information processing apparatus to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a digital broadcast transmission;

demultiplexing the received transmission into content data and discount charge data specifying a charge for use of the content data, use including at least one of reproducing or copying the content data, wherein the charge decreases with a number of times the content data is used;

recording the content data onto a recording medium; and

charging for use of the recorded content data in accordance with the received discount charge data, the charge decreasing with the number of times the content data is used.

64. (new) The recording medium as claimed in claim 63, wherein the discount charge data specifies a charge which varies inversely with the number of times the content data is used.